

Grandparents as Foster Parents

What does this program do?

Provides cash assistance and other benefits and services for grandparent(s) and other relatives who have legal guardianship, legal custody of related children or have petitioned for legal guardianship/custody for children under the age of 19. Assistance is available to help maintain a permanent home for the child(ren).

Note: If Foster Parent training is completed, the following additional services may also be available: Medicaid, child care, respite care, clothing allowance, emergency medical mileage, legal expenses up to \$500 and certain pre-approved special expenses. If Foster Parent training is refused, eligibility may exist for the same services except respite care, clothing allowance and emergency medical mileage.

What is the statutory base?

State: RSMo 453.320, 453.325, 208.010, 13 CSR 40-2.300

Is this a federally mandated program?

No.

What is the funding?

State Fiscal Year	General Revenue	Federal	Other	Total
2002	\$12.7 mil	\$0	\$0	\$12.7 mil
2003	\$7.3 mil	\$0	\$0	\$7.3 mil
2004	\$2.4 mil	\$0	\$0	\$2.4 mil

Who is eligible?

- A grandparent with gross income less than 200% of poverty who is caring for their biological or adoptive grandchild(ren). The grandparent(s) must be the legal guardian, have legal custody of the child(ren), or have petitioned the court for legal guardianship/custody for a child under age 19. If two grandparents live in the home with the child(ren), only one is required to be at least age 50.

- Other relative who is 50 or older with a gross income of 200% of poverty who is caring for a child(ren) under 19 if they have legal guardianship, custody of or have petitioned the courts for guardianship/custody.
- Grandparents, but not other relatives, may receive this type of assistance if they are under age 50, but they are subject to a 60-month time limit and work participation requirements.

How many children and families benefit from these payments?

State Fiscal Year	Average Monthly Children	Average Monthly Families
2001	2,235	1,271
2002	2,472	1,371
2003	2,436	1,360

What is the monthly benefit per child and how does this compare to Foster Care maintenance payments?

	Birth - 24 Mos	25 Mos - 5 Years	6 - 12 Years	13+ Years
Foster Care	\$277	\$227	\$277	\$307
GAFP*	\$69	\$56	\$69	\$76

*In August 2003, Grandparents as Foster Parents grants were reduced from 75% of the Foster Care maximum payment to 25%. The third and subsequent child(ren) receive \$55.

Grandparents as Foster Parents Comparison of Average Monthly Payment Per Family



Other related demographic:

- In July 2003, the average age of the children covered under this program was 10.3 years.